
MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 21, 24-27 and 29 were pending in this case. Claims 24 and 29 are being cancelled by this Amendment, leaving Claims 1-6, 8-11, 21, 25, 26 and 27 for consideration.

1. (Currently amended) A multi-purpose tool comprising:

a housing having a periphery that includes a bottom wall and a first side wall; a recess that extends into said bottom wall and forms a base opening in said bottom wall;

said recess ~~extending~~ extends into said first sidewall and forms a wall opening in said first sidewall;

a stapler comprising a hinged end from which extend a stapler base and an activating member and a stapler open end for receiving materials to be stapled, wherein said stapler base extends into said base opening and forms a portion of said bottom wall and said actuating member is releasably secured to said housing in a manner to position said stapler open end at said wall opening.

2. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 1 wherein said recess is defined by an inclined wall that extends from said first side wall into a curved portion, said curved portion merging into an end wall that terminates at said bottom wall.

3. (Original) The tool of claim 2 wherein said recess is formed with at least two opposing undercut slots that extend from said first side wall along said inclined wall and said curved portion, said slots terminating at said end wall.

4. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 3 further comprising at least two opposing flanges extending longitudinally along said actuating member for frictional engagement with a corresponding undercut slot when said stapler is secured to said housing.

5. (Original) The tool of claim 3 wherein said slots have a decreasing width along said inclined wall.

6. (Original) The tool of claim 5 wherein said curved portion defines a transition area and said width diminishes in said transition area.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 1 wherein said stapler base has an outwardly extending tab and wherein said housing is formed with an indentation on said bottom wall, said tab being engageable with said indentation when said stapler is secured to said recess.

9. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing includes a corner opening and further comprising:

a hole punch; and,

a holding means for selectively fixing said hole punch in said corner opening.

10. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 9 wherein said housing has a front wall and a rear wall with a first guide rail formed in said front wall and a second guide rail formed in said rear wall, and wherein said punch includes a punch casing

having opposing grooves that frictionally engage said guide rails when said hole punch is inserted into said corner opening and fixed to said housing.

11. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing has an aperture and further comprising:

a lighting means mounted within said housing and oriented for illumination through said aperture; and,

an activating means attached to said housing and electrically connected to said lighting means for selective illumination of said lighting means.

Claims 12 – 20 (canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A multi-purpose tool comprising a housing having peripheral walls that include a corner recess consisting of a side wall opening and a bottom wall opening, said housing containing a stapler comprising a base and an actuating member hingably attached to said base to form a hinged end and an open end, said open end providing access for materials to be stapled, said base extending into said bottom wall opening and forming at least a portion of said bottom wall, said actuating member being attached to said housing with said open end being located at said side wall opening.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The tool of ~~claim 24~~ claim 21 wherein said peripheral walls include a bottom wall into which extends said bottom wall opening and a side wall into which extends said side wall opening, the base of said stapler being about coplanar with said bottom wall.

26. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 25 wherein the open end of said stapler is proximate to said side wall.

27. (Currently amended) A compact multi-purpose tool comprising a housing fitted with a stapler having an outline;

said housing having peripheral walls that include a corner with a recess having a shape that corresponds to said outline, and said stapler comprising a base with a pivotally attached actuating member; and,

said base forming a first portion of said peripheral walls; and,

wherein said stapler has an open end that forms a second portion of said peripheral walls.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)